

To prevent forest fires near Frederick, MD, individuals can take several precautions including **checking weather conditions and drought levels, avoiding activities that involve fire or sparks in dry, windy conditions, and maintaining equipment properly.**

**Here are 10 specific ways to prevent forest fires:**

1. **Check weather and drought conditions:** Avoid any activities involving fire or sparks during hot, dry, and windy periods.
2. **Maintain equipment:** Ensure spark arrestors ( a device which prevents the emission of combustion sources) sparks escaping) are functional on gas-powered tools like chainsaws and grinders.
3. **Clearings around homes:** Maintain a clear zone of at least 30 feet around homes, removing flammable debris.
4. **Burn debris responsibly:** Only burn debris when conditions are safe and avoid burning on windy days
5. **Carefully dispose of smoking materials:** Avoid throwing cigarettes out of windows or on dry grass.
6. **Maintain campfires responsibly:** Ensure campfires are in open areas away from flammables and extinguish them completely until they are cold.
7. **Stay on roads:** Avoid driving vehicles on overgrown grass and dry leaves.
8. **Keep vehicles off dry grass:** If off-roading, be mindful of dry vegetation.
9. **Use fire-resistant materials:** Consider using fire-resistant building materials like masonry, aluminum, or fiber cement board for homes.
10. **Support fire-wise landscaping:** Choose fire-resistant plants and mulches and avoid flammable materials within 30 feet of the house.